

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Neglect of Environment In Budget

*516. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: WiU the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Budget has ignored environment: TERI*", appearing in Hindustan Times of 9th March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether this year's Budget too continues to ignore the impact of the transport sector on environment, whereas environment plays a pivotal role;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Ministry would request the Finance Ministry to reconsider the issue in a sympathetic way?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government takes into account the competing interests of a large number of important sectors, including environment and impact of transport sector on environment, while making budgetary allocation. The proposed allocations for the year 2001-2002 under major sectors are as below:

(Rs. in crores)

Sector		Allocation
1	Environment	209.15
2	National Rivers Conservation Directorate	190.95
3	NRCD	205.20
4	Forests & Wildlife	114.70
5	National Afforestation & Eco Development Board NAEB	80.00
	Lump Sum for North East & Sikkim	
TOTAL:		800.00

Reduction of Journey Time of Karnataka Express

*517. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for reduction of duration of journey by Karnataka Express between Bangalore and New Delhi is pending before Government; and

(b) if so, the current status of proposal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for speeding up of ^,627/2628 Karnataka Express, as it is running on the authorized maximum sectional speed.